

Samuel Houston to Andrew Jackson, January 13, 1827, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

Washington, January 13, 1827.

Dear General, Not long since I was in conversation with a Gentleman, when he stated to me that he had in his possession an original letter from Mr. Monroe, to the Secy of War, dated Sept 1819, 1 and went on to state the contents of the same, but did not, as well as I recollect, state to me by what means it came to him. The envelope I recollect he stated was lost, before it was put in his hands. I made him pledge himself, that he wou'd send me a copy, on his return home, which is some distance from this place. He has comply'd, and you will find the Copy herewith inclosed. The Original, he has pledged himself to place in *your own* hands, or to furnish it to me, for *that* purpose. Comments from me, on the subject of this letter wou'd be ridiculous, when offerd to *you* , who felt, and acted on that occasion. But I felt it to be my sacred duty, to obtain for you a knowledge of the facts, so far as it has been in my power. No part of the letter was *Italicised* , but I will mark in *that way* such sentences, as struck me with *peculiar* force.

1 Sept. 9, not 1819. Printed in *Niles' Register* , XL. 44.

You may rest assured from the nature of this affair, that it will be kept profoundly secrete. The circumstances under which it came to me, are such as will not warrant the use of [it] in any other way, than at present to advertise you of the fact; when the original is presented to you, you will then be enabled to pursue the course dictated by the fitness of the circumstances, and the relation, which you bear, to the individuals, concerned, but above all, to the *community* in which you are placed. For I do regard *you* as occupying a station, in the Republic at this moment, of the last—yes! vital importance to its *happy*

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existence , to say the least of it. Your virtues, your qualifications, and your distinguished services to the country, have rendered you the rallying point, of the friends of principle throughout the Union, and with you these friends must either *triumph, or fall* ; and in *that fall* , (tho' it may be remote) certain ruin, is portended to our institutions. The Republicans ask nothing in return, but the pleasure, and joy, of seeing the destinies of this country wrested from the hands of a corrupt Dynasty, and guided by an enlightened Patriot, who will regard the principles of our Government, and administer its laws agreeably to the constitution!

Your friends here are confident, and your enemies are decreasing in number. Some are desperate, I need not say *who* —the passing events will advertise you, as you see them in the news Papers.

Before this letter reaches you, you will have seen an account of a *dinner* given here on the " *8th, of Jany* ." The account given in the "Telegraph" is correct, but you can not conceive the happy effect of our friend Judge Whites *speech and toast* on that occasion. 2 It was beyond all doubt the happiest effort of kind, that I have ever witnessed. Its effect too, will be happy in the extreme, elsewhere.

2 *United States Telegraph* (Duff Green's paper), Jan. 11, 1827.

You will perceive that in all parts of the country, it was a Day of joy, and rejoicing. It will increase every year, in a ratio not hitherto known in the country. New York, has been where she ought to be, on the occasion, and I have no doubt, but she will be at her *Post* on the P— 3 election!

3 Presidential.

As I know that you require of your friends at all times, to approach you as friends, and speak to you as men, in *candour* , and confidence; and as you will appreciate my *motives* , however ridiculous you may esteem my expressions, I will state to you the

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apprehension of some who are really your friends, but who *do not know you!* They are fearful, that you will let the administration, or their hireling miscreants, provoke you to some course, which may eventually *turn out* to their advantage! and, in part this fear is induced, by the by, a Knowledge of the efforts, made by them to prostrate your friends, and thereby wound you, not only in your own prospects, but in your feelings. Your known devotion to your friends, and to the countrys friends, has increased their hopes, of thereby prompting you to take the *arena* , and let yourself down to *their level!*

Your friends are known—they will be sustained; and your known confidence in them, will be the most efficient aid, which they can receive. By your mantaining the station which you have so justly gained and rightfully sustained, their efforts either of personal detraction, or political defamation, must recoil upon their authers, and leave you in the full possession of self approbation, and a nation's confidence. The views which I took in my letter to my friend Dr. Shelby, I have no reason to disclaim, from the late developments of the several *states* named in my letter, but on the contrary I am more and more confirmed in my belief. The Message of Gov. Clinton, 4 is out right against the administration, and of Mr. Van Buren's opposition to it, I have no doubt. Mr. V. B. will support you in all good faith. I have not spoken to him only in the way of politeness since we met, but your friends who know him best are satisfied as to his course, and pleased with it. Virginia is right, and there is no doubt, but Mr. Randolph was elected, to day. 5 Genl. Floyd of Virginia 6 is among your most devoted friends, and is a *true man* —he goes the whole amount of his power, nor is it small. I know of no man, more devoted to your success than he is.

4 See *Messages from the Governors of New York* , ed. C. Z. Lincoln, III. 153.

5 John Randolph failed of election to the Senate, but later was elected a representative in the Twentieth Congress.

6 John Floyd, M. C. 1817–1829, governor of Virginia 1829–1834.

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The committee has not yet reported, in the V. Presidents case, nor do I suppose it will in less than ten days, owing to the many witnesses summoned to give evidence in the case. I am satisfied tho' I have not heard a word directly (nor have ever heard any member of the committee speak on the subject) that the V. President will be honorably acquitted!

It has not been in my power, to obtain the Horse Keeper, which Capt. D wishes got, but I will not cease trying. To Mr. R. I have not spoken about the *filly* , but so soon the election is over I will do so!

Be pleased to express in the most respectful terms, to Mrs. Jackson my sincere wishes, for her health and happiness. To Capt. D. 7 and lady and to your son's please to present me kindly. With sincere wishes for your health, and enjoyment of many happy years,

7 Capt. A. J. Donelson.

I am most respectfully and truly your friend

P. S. your letter to major Lee, I recd. and sent the same day to him. H.